



State of Delaware

Court Modernization Review Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was held on December 12, 2019, in conference room 219 of the Haslet Armory located at 122 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd S, Dover, DE 19901.

Committee Members Represented or in Attendance:

Director Mike Jackson	Office of Management and Budget
Senator David Sokola	Co-chair, Joint Legislative Committee on the Capital Improvement Program
Senator Brian Pettyjohn	Delaware State Senate, minority party appointee
Representative Ron Gray	Delaware House of Representatives, minority party appointee
Mike Morton	Controller General
Chief Justice Collins Seitz, Jr.	Delaware Supreme Court
Chief Judge Michael Newell	Delaware Family Court
Tom McGonigle	Delaware Bar Association
Secretary Rick Geisenberger	Department of Finance

Committee Members Not Represented or in Attendance:

Rob Rider (by Phone)	Delaware Prosperity Partnership (attended by phone/not part of quorum)
Senator Quinton Johnson	Co-chair, Joint Finance Committee
Senator Harris McDowell	Co-chair, Joint Finance Committee
Representative Debra Heffernan	Co-chair, Joint Legislative Committee on the Capital Improvement Program

Others in Attendance:

Bill Lenihan	Elmer Setting	Laird Stabler
Andy Lubin	Ellie Torres	Marcel Ham
Ruth Ann Jones	Saul Hernandez	
Nicole Polite	Evelyn Nestlerode	
Eric Petersen	Kyle Baranski	

I. Call to order

Director Mike Jackson called to order the Court Modernization Review Committee at 3:06 P.M. on December 12, 2019.

II. Introductions

No introductions were necessary as the committee and attendees were all familiar.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Senator Pettyjohn and seconded by Senator Sokola to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 20, 2019. The minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of Draft Findings Report

The intention from the General Assembly was for the committee to provide language specific to findings, and what this committee tried to do is to stick to the facts. Once a report is approved, it will be submitted to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. A copy will also be provided to the Capital Improvement Committee.

The Chief Judge circulated the draft report, which was provided to the committee members in advance. The outline reviewed at the November 20, 2019 committee meeting was compiled into the draft report. The draft report provides background information, information on consultants and additional online materials, general description of meetings, summary of findings and the options, including the third option that was discussed at the November 20 meeting.

The committee discussed the report and concluded that it was thorough and meets the requirements of the authorizing epilogue. The Chief Judge will draft a cover letter that briefly outlines the three options contained in the draft report.

There were no further comments on the report.

There was a motion to adopt the draft report findings from Senator Pettyjohn and seconded by Senator Sokola. The report was approved unanimously.

It was noted that Chief Judge Newell and Chief Justice Seitz appreciate the involvement, effort, interest from the committee and attendees on this much needed project for the Judiciary.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Senator David Sokola and seconded by Mike Morton at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Ramsburg